(a) the details of steps being taken by the Government to develop tourism in the State of Arunachal Pradesh like other States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OFTOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) to (c) Development and promotion of tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/UT Administrations concerned. Department of Tourism, Government of India provides financial assistance for identified tourism projects in consultation with them.

Department of Tourism, Government of India has decided that during the 10th Five Year Plan it will identify six travel circuits in the country on an annual basis and develop them.The circuit identified for NE Region is as follows:

Shillong-Guwahati-Kaziranga-Tezpur-Bhalakpung-Tawang (Arunachal Pradesh)-Majuli-Sibsagar-Kohima.

In addition to this, it is proposed to identify one major destination in each State/Union Territory for overall development each year.

During the financial year 2002-2003, a provision*of Rs. 22.5 crores has been made for North Eastern Region including Sikkim for tourism development.

New Tourist Spots

2082. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what steps have been taken to increase India's share in the World tourist traffic; and

(b) the new tourist spots identified in various State to attract tourist traffic?

THE MINISTER OFTOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) The Department of Tourism has the following short-term and long-term plans to make tourism more attractive and thereby attracting more foreign tourists in the country.

* Development of 'Hubs' in which elements of culture, tourism, clean civic life, efficient and effective management and healthy

environment are synthesised with a view to ensuring that a tourist to India should get physically refreshed, mentally rejuvenated, culturally enriched and spiritually elevated and on return 'should feel India within him'.

* Positioning and maintaining tourism development as a National priority activity.
* Enhancing and maintaining the competitiveness of India as a tourism destination.
* Improving India's existing tourism products and expanding these to meet new market requirements.
* Creation of World class infrastructure.
* Developing sustained and effective market plans and programmes.
* Special thrust to rural and small segment tourism.
* Attention to civilisation issues and issues pertaining to civil administration, good governance and also of social and cultural values.
* Development of tourism circuits and destinations and improvement of wayside amenities to facilitate growth in domestic tourism.

During the 10th Five Year Plan the Department of Tourism proposes to identify six tourism circuits in the country annually and develop the facilities in these circuits. During the current year following six circuits have been identified for development in consultation with the State Governments:—

(i) Buddhist Circuit: Bodhgaya-Rajgir-Nalanda-Varanasi.

(ii) Himalayan Circuit:

Route l-Chandigarh-Bilaspur-Kullu-Manali-Rohtang La-Key Long-Sarchu-Upshi-Leh.

Route ll-Shimla-Sangla-Kaza-Chatru-Keylong-Sarchu-Yashi-Leh.

(iii) Central Circuit— (Heritage, Nature & Wildlife Circuit): Gwalior-Shivpuri-Chanderi-Orcha-Khajuraho-Jhansi-Bhopal-Sanchiand surrounding Buddhist areas-Bhimbetka-Panchamari-Kanha Jabalpur (Bhedaghat).

(iv) Western Circuit-(Konkan Riviera circuit): Bombay-Alibagh (Mandva)-Muradjanjira-Ganapatipule-Vijaydurg-Mithibad-Kunkeshwar-Mochetmad-Singdhudurg-Tarkarli-Shiroda-Savantwadi-Amboli-Goa-CoastalKarnataka-Bekal.

(v) Southern Circuit-(Backwater and Beach Circuit): Cochin-Kumarakom-(Backwater)-Kottayam-Quilon-Trivandrum((Kovalam).

(vi) Eco-Tourism Circuit: Shillong-Guwahati-Kaziranga-Tezpur-Bhalakpung-Tawang (Arunachal Pradesh)-Majuli-Sibsagar-Kohima.

Casinos in tourist places

†2083. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of casinos set up in tourist places in India;

(b) the names of places where these are situated;

(c) the rules under which the permission to run these casinos have been granted; and

(d) the details of action being taken on the increase in the number of these casinos or the action taken to ban these?

THE MINISTER OFTOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Sir, no casinos have been set up in tourist places in India.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Upkeep of monuments by private players

2084. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ASI has refused to comply with the decision of Government which allows private players, NGOs and corporate players for repair, upkeep and maintenance of old monuments;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for such a decision by the ASI?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.